

Abuse and neglect of the disabled and elderly happens more often than any of us would like to admit. It is serious, and it can happen in any setting.

All of us, as responsible citizens, must help to prevent and stop abuse, neglect, abandonment, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults by reporting suspected abuse to the appropriate authorities.

A VULNERABLE OR DEPENDENT PERSON IS:

- ♦ Someone who is unable to care for or protect him or her self, or
- ♦ A person living in a hospital, nursing home, assisted living facilities, boarding home, or adult family home,
- ♦ A person with a developmental disability, or
- ♦ A person with a legal guardian or
- ♦ A person receiving personal care services in his or her own home from an agency or contracted individual provider, including self-directed care.

ARE YOU REQUIRED TO REPORT ABUSE OF AN ELDERLY OR DISABLED PERSON?

A person, including health practioners, or an owner or employee of an institution, who has reasonable cause to believe that the physical or mental health or welfare of a resident has been adversely affected by the abuse or neglect caused by another person shall report the abuse or neglect. **“FAILURE TO REPORT ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.”**

Reference: California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 15630(h) and California Penal Code Sections 11160 & 11162.

San Bernardino County
Adult Protective Services
Toll free 24 hour hotline
(877) 565-2020

San Bernardino County
District Attorney
Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit

San Bernardino
(909) 891-3346

Victorville
(760) 951-3413

Elder Physical Abuse

CALL 911



San Bernardino County
District Attorney's Office
Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit

Michael A. Ramos,
District Attorney

316 N. Mountain View Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415

ABUSE

is a willful action or inaction that causes harm. It includes physical, mental, and sexual abuse, neglect, and false imprisonment.

SIGNS OF PHYSICAL ABUSE

- ◆ Unexplained bruises, welts, black eyes, wounds, or fractures
- ◆ Multiple injuries in various stages of healing
- ◆ Sudden changes in behavior (adult is fearful or depressed or engages in self-destructive behavior)
- ◆ The caregiver refuses to allow visitors
- ◆ Person is in restraints or locked in a room
- ◆ Missing patches of hair or hemorrhaging below the scalp
- ◆ Client reports abuse

SIGNS OF MENTAL ABUSE

- ◆ Person is emotionally upset, agitated, withdrawn, non-communicative, depressed, or non-responsive
- ◆ Caregiver refuses to allow visitors or does not let the person participate in family or community events
- ◆ Client reports abuse

SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- ◆ Bruising around breasts and/or genital area
- ◆ An unexplained venereal disease
- ◆ Soiled underclothes or bedding
- ◆ Sudden changes in behavior

ABANDONMENT

is leaving the vulnerable adult without means of caring for her or himself.

SIGNS OF ABANDONMENT

- ◆ Adult is deserted in a public place or in his or her own home.
- ◆ The adult reports being abandoned

NEGLECT

is the failure of someone to safely care for a vulnerable elderly or disabled person to maintain their health and safety. Self-neglect is the failure of the vulnerable person to maintain his or her own health or safety.

SIGNS OF NEGLECT AND SELF-NEGLECT & FALSE IMPRISONMENT

- ◆ Dehydration
- ◆ Malnutrition
- ◆ Untreated injuries, or unattended health problems, including poor dental health
- ◆ Person appears unclean and/or poorly groomed
- ◆ Person lying in feces or urine, or a strong odor of feces or urine
- ◆ Death of a person with indications of poor care;
- ◆ Unsafe living conditions
- ◆ A competent person restrained by force or fear

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION occurs when someone takes financial advantage of a vulnerable elderly or disabled person.

SIGNS OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION:

- ◆ Sudden transfer of assets (money)
- ◆ Disappearance of possessions
- ◆ Unexplained or unusual use of bank cards;
- ◆ Unpaid bills
- ◆ Forged signature on checks
- ◆ Misuse of electronic benefits transfer card
- ◆ Adult is forced to sign a legal document

CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE § 368

- ◆ It is unlawful to willfully harm or to cause or permit harm to come to an elder age 65 or older or dependent adult.
- ◆ It is also unlawful to steal or embezzle from, or falsely imprison, an elder or dependent adult.

REPORTING

WHERE DO YOU REPORT?

IN CASE OF IMMEDIATE HARM DON'T BE AFRAID TO

CALL: 911

OR YOUR LOCAL POLICE

If you report neglect and abuse, under the law you are protected against retaliation. These laws apply whether in an institutional setting or community setting.

**Adult Protective Services
1-877-565-2020**

When you report you will be asked:

- ◆ The name, address, apartment number, age, and telephone number of the adult you think is being harmed
- ◆ Any information about the circumstances
- ◆ The name, address, relationship and telephone number of the person you think is causing the harm
- ◆ Name of other people who can provide information about the situation
- ◆ Any safety concerns you may have
- ◆ Your name and address

